UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,538	09/12/2003	Tsutomu Ohishi	242738US2	5339

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EXAMINER
RODRIGUEZ, LENNIN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/08/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/660,538	OHISHI ET AL.
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LENNIN R. RODRIGUEZ	2625	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 August 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-7,9-16,18-23,25 and 26* is/are pending in the application.

　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-7,9-16,18-23,25 and 26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

　　1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
　　　application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail. Date _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments, see page 3 of the Remarks/Arguments, filed 8/20/2009, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive.   Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Furukawa et al. (US 2001/0046065).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4.   Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 13-16, 18-21 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitmarsh (US 2002/0101608) in view of Matsueda et al. (US 2001/0040692) and Furukawa et al. (US 2001/0046065).

(1) regarding claims 1 and 14:

Whitmarsh '608 discloses an image forming apparatus (10 in Fig. 1) comprising:

an information providing part (workflow application server 14 in Fig. 1) configured to provide, to a client terminal, screen data being used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses among from a plurality of image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0035] and paragraph [0036], lines 1-4, where the user can select the destination printer among the ones shown in a list) connected to a network on the client terminal (paragraph [0021], lines 1-7, where the printers are connected through a network to the system),

a print request part (18a in Fig. 1) configured to distribute print data and a print request to one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0021], lines 19-26, where the publisher distributes the print request with the print files to 18b...18d in Fig. 1), wherein, when a print request that has been received includes a name of print data (paragraph [0021], lines 23-26, where every file being sent to a printer needs to have a name to it, or identification in order to be recognized and in this case printable file 22 needs to have that) and a function of an image forming apparatus from the client terminal (paragraph [0041], lines 1-6, it contains print request parameters that indicate functions of the printing apparatus such as color print).

Whitmarsh '608 discloses all the subject matter as described above except an information providing part configured to store, in a storage unit, information including addresses of one or more of the image forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses;

However, Matsueda '692 teaches an information providing part configured to store, in a storage unit (paragraph [0062], and 203 in Fig. 2), information including addresses of one or more of the image forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0028], lines 8-14, where a designated printer is selected and paragraph [0062], where the address of the printing apparatus used is stored); and

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 reference and then given the well-established teaching of Matsueda '692 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and method of Whitmarsh '608 to include an information providing part configured to store, in a storage unit, information including addresses of one or more of the image forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses as taught by Matsueda '692 because it would allow the system to have a destination and related information of the device to which it will send print data that way it releases the client computer the memory usage of having all that information in its own memory, thus reducing the cost of adding more memory to a client computer.

Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 disclose all the subject matter as described above except the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses, and the print request part distributes the print data and a print request to

the one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses.

However, Furukawa '065 teaches the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses (paragraph [0050], [0051], and [0059], where the address is extracted of the selected printer supporting a printing function), and the print request part distributes the print data and a print request to the one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses (paragraph [0060], where the extracted address is that of the desired printer devices, therefore only transmitting to those having support for the printing function).

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 and then given the well-established teaching of Furukawa '065 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and process method of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 to include the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses, and the print request part distributes the print data and a print request to the one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses as taught by Furukawa '065 because it

will provide with a more direct access to matching job's capabilities printers, thus reducing unnecessary network traffic, thus reducing operating costs.

(2) regarding claims 2 and 15:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the information providing part sends screen data for inputting a print instruction to the client terminal (paragraph [0041]-[0042], where via a browser there is provided a screen so that the user can make choices); and

the print request part distributes the print data and the print request when receiving the print instruction from the client terminal (paragraph [0046], lines 1-7).

(3) regarding claims 3 and 16:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the information providing part sends screen data used for uploading the print data to the client terminal (paragraph [0038]); and

the image forming apparatus receives the print data when the print data is uploaded from the client terminal (paragraphs [0038]-[0039]).

(4) regarding claims 5 and 18:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the screen data includes data for displaying a plurality of image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0043], where the user can select the destination printer among the ones shown in a list) and corresponding places for each of the image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0043], where the list includes publisher address).

(5) regarding claims 6 and 19:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the screen data includes data for displaying a plurality of image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0043], where the user can select the destination printer among the ones shown in a list) and corresponding functions for each of the image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0041]).

(6) regarding claim 7:

Whitmarsh '608 discloses all the subject matter as described above except wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the storage unit.

However, Matsueda '692 teaches wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the storage unit (paragraph [0028], lines 8-14, where the extracted address is that of the desired printer device) (paragraph [0062], and 203 in Fig. 2).

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 reference and then given the well-established teaching of Matsueda '692 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and method of Whitmarsh '608 to include wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the storage unit as taught by Matsueda '692 because it would allow the system to have a destination and related information of the device to which it will send print data that way it releases the client computer the memory usage of having all that information in its own memory, thus reducing the cost of adding more memory to a client computer.

(7) regarding claim 11:

Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the print request part comprises an address obtaining part for obtaining addresses of the one or more image forming apparatuses connected to a network; and

wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by using addresses obtained by the address obtaining part.

However, Furukawa '065 teaches wherein the print request part comprises an address obtaining part for obtaining addresses of the one or more image forming apparatuses connected to a network (paragraph [0050], [0051], and [0059], where the address is extracted of the selected printer supporting a printing function); and

wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by using addresses obtained by the address obtaining part (paragraph [0060], where the extracted address is that of the desired printer devices, therefore only transmitting to those having support for the printing function).

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 and then given the well-established teaching of Furukawa '065 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and process method of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 to include wherein the print request part comprises an address obtaining part for obtaining addresses of the one or more image forming apparatuses connected to a network; and wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by using addresses obtained by the address obtaining part as taught by Furukawa '065 because

it will provide with a more direct access to matching job's capabilities printers, thus reducing unnecessary network traffic, thus reducing operating costs.

(8) regarding claims 13 and 26:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses the image forming apparatus further comprising hardware resources used for image forming processes (Fig. 1, where it has a variety of hardware components), and control services that perform processes of the system side including control of the hardware resources according to a request from an application executed in the image forming apparatus (14 in Fig. 1),

wherein the image forming apparatus is configured to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from the control services (paragraph [0033], where different programs such as job store application can be installed), and the image forming apparatus includes the information providing part and the print request part as an application (paragraph [0043]).

(9) regarding claim 20:

Whitmarsh '608 discloses all the subject matter as described above except wherein the image forming apparatus stores in a memory information including addresses of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses,

However, Matsueda '692 teaches wherein the image forming apparatus stores in a memory information including addresses of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0028] and paragraph [0062]),

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 reference and then given the well-established teaching of Matsueda '692 reference, it would have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and method of Whitmarsh '608 to include wherein the image forming apparatus stores in a memory information including addresses of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses as taught by Matsueda '692 because it would allow the system to have a destination and related information of the device to which it will send print data that way it releases the client computer the memory usage of having all that information in its own memory, thus reducing the cost of adding more memory to a client computer.

Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the image forming apparatus distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the memory.

However, Furukawa '065 teaches wherein the image forming apparatus distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the memory (paragraph [0060], where the extracted address is that of the desired printer devices, therefore only transmitting to those having support for the printing function).

Having a system of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 and then given the well-established teaching of Furukawa '065 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the image forming apparatus and process method of Whitmarsh '608 and Matsueda '692 to include wherein the image forming apparatus distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the memory as taught by Furukawa '065

because it will provide with a more direct access to matching job's capabilities printers, thus reducing unnecessary network traffic, thus reducing operating costs.

(10) regarding claim 21:

Whitmarsh '608 further discloses wherein the print instruction includes an instruction for designating functions to be used for printing the print data (paragraph [0041]-[0042], where via a browser there is provided a screen so that the user can make choices), and

the print request part selects one or more image forming apparatuses that includes the designated functions from among the selected one or more image forming apparatuses (paragraph [0043], where the user can select the destination printer among the ones shown in a list), and distributes the print data and the print request to the one or more image forming apparatuses that includes the designated functions (paragraph [0046], lines 1-7).

5.   Claims 9-10 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitmarsh (US 2002/0101608), Matsueda et al. (US 2001/0040692) and Furukawa et al. (US 2001/0046065) in view of Shima (JP 2001209503 A, machine translation it's being used for the citations).

(1) regarding claims 9 and 22:

Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa '065 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the print request part requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data.

However, Shima '503 teaches wherein the print request part requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data (paragraph [0009], where with the loop back address the system is able to perform this function).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made wherein the print request part requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data as taught by Shima '503, in the system of Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa '065. With this the development cost are reduced by dispensing with the development of an interface relying on each printing server (English abstract).

(2) regarding claims 10 and 23:

Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa '065 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the print request part requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address.

However, Shima '503 teaches wherein the print request part requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address (paragraph [0009], where with the loop back address the system is able to perform this function).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made wherein the print request part requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address as taught by Shima '503, in the system of Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa

'065. With this the development cost are reduced by dispensing with the development of an interface relying on each printing server (English abstract).

6.   Claims 12 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitmarsh (US 2002/0101608), Matsueda et al. (US 2001/0040692) and Furukawa et al. (US 2001/0046065) in view of Aoyagi et al. (US 2002/0032761).

        Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa '065 disclose all the subject matter as described above except wherein the address obtaining part obtains the addresses from MIBs by using SNMP.

        However, Aoyagi '761 teaches wherein the address obtaining part obtains the addresses from MIBs by using SNMP (paragraph [0393]).

        Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made wherein the address obtaining part obtains the addresses from MIBs by using SNMP as taught by Aoyagi '761, in the system of Whitmarsh '608, Matsueda '692 and Furukawa '065. This allows for displaying a network configuration chart that allows easy understanding of port-by-port connections of network devices and the like (paragraph [0013]).

Conclusion

        Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LENNIN R. RODRIGUEZ whose telephone number is (571)270-1678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30am - 6:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on (571) 272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

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